**In the claims:**

All of the claims standing for examination are presented below with appropriate status indication.

1-30 (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) In a data-packet network having a label-switching sub-network with one ingress node and one egress node, with at least two nodes internal to the sub-network connected by a plurality of parallel links, a method for routing packets through the sub-network and the parallel links while ensuring in-order delivery for unique packet flow defined by unique source/destination pairs, comprising the steps of:

(a) creating a sufficient number of label-switched paths (LSPs) from the ingress node to the egress node that each packet flow may have a unique LSP; and

(b) associating each packet flow with one of the created LSPs.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31 wherein the number of LSPs created is equal to the least-common multiple of the number of links between each individual node in the node path, wherein the number of links between nodes are not always equal.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31 wherein, in step (a) a mask value is added to a label value in the process of setting up the LSPs, and the LSPs are all created in response to a single signal sent from the ingress node.

34. (Currently amended) A routing system in a data-packet network having a label-switching sub-network with one ingress node and one egress node, with at least two nodes internal to the sub-network connected by a plurality of parallel links, the system comprising:

a mechanism for creating a sufficient number of label-switched paths (LSPs) from the ingress node to the egress node that each packet flow may have a unique LSP; and

a mechanism for associating each packet flow with one of the created LSPs.

35. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~32~~ 34 wherein the number of LSPs created is equal to the least-common multiple of the number of links between each individual node in the node path, wherein the number of links between nodes are not always equal.

36. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~32~~ 31 wherein, in step (a) a mask value is added to a label value in the process of setting up the LSPs, and the LSPs are all created in response to a single signal sent from the ingress node.